

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Wilhelmus Joseph Leonardus SUYKER et al. )  
)  
Serial No.: NA ) Group Art Unit: NA  
)  
Filed: HEREWITH ) Examiner: NA  
)  
For: Connector, Applicator and Method for Mechanically Connecting Hollow  
Structures, in Particular Small Blood Vessels

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application and calculation  
of the filing fee, please amend the application as set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 27, line 1, delete "or 19"

Claim 28, line 1, delete "or 19"

Please add new claims 38-39 as set forth below:

-- 38. The applicator as claimed in claim 19, wherein the shank-like element is  
rigid.

39. The application as claimed in claim 19, wherein the shank-like element is  
flexible.--

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is made to eliminate multiple dependent claims by  
rewriting claims 27 and 28 as two separate dependent claims.

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By #2  
Lukas  
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